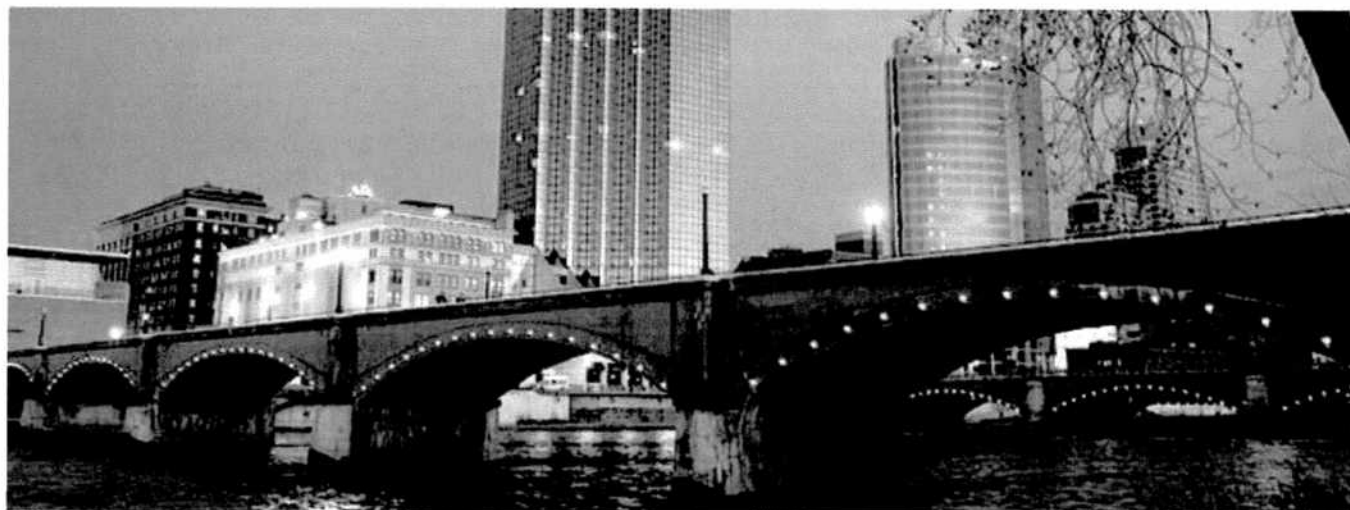


Spurring Sustainability and Prosperity through Collaborative Regional Partnerships



Presentation to:
Michigan House Committee on
Intergovernmental and Regional Affairs
February 24, 2009

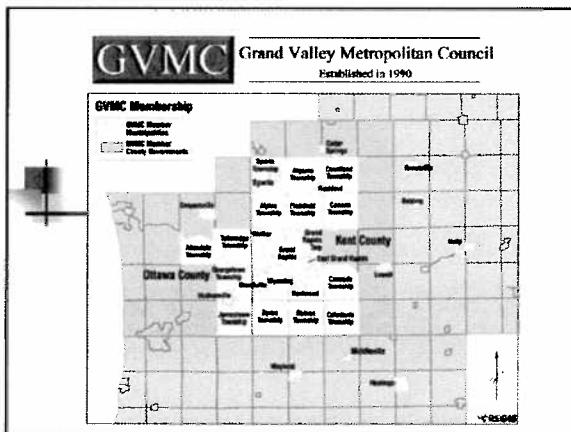
Presented by:
Donald J. Stypula, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council



Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Established in 1990

Grand Valley Metro Council

- Incorporated on October 1, 1990 under P.A. 292 of 1989 – the Metropolitan Councils Act
- Began with 11 members, now up to 35
- Communities located in 6 counties
- Represents more than 950,000 persons
- Covers 13 State Representative, 7 State Senate, and 4 Congressional Districts
- Includes private sector representatives
- Transportation Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for urbanized area



Collaborative Partnerships



Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Creating Opportunities for Business Success

THE RIGHT PLACE, INC.
A REGIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE RELATIONSHIP



Collaborative Partnerships

Michigan State University Extension

WMSRDC
WEST MICHIGAN SHORELINE
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

WMEAC

MDOT Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

Partners for a Racism-Free Community
EXPECT EQUALITY

Collaborative Partnerships

GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

AQUINAS
COLLEGE

Grand Rapids
Community
College

CALVIN
College

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Regional Cooperation Committee**

- City, Village and Township officials meet periodically to analyze and discuss public policy issues facing the region
- Discussions lead to action plans that encourage the sharing of services and the cost of those services
- Issues Include Transportation, Land Use, Public Utilities & Economic Development

GVMC's Collaborative Regional Planning Services



▪ Cutting Edge, Regional Land Use Planning







▪ Transportation Planning for nearly 2000 miles of federal aid-eligible roads





▪ Watershed Council administers 3,200 square mile watershed


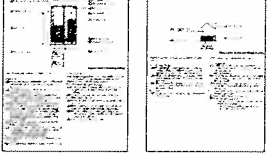
GVMC Land Use Planning

Conventional Zoning

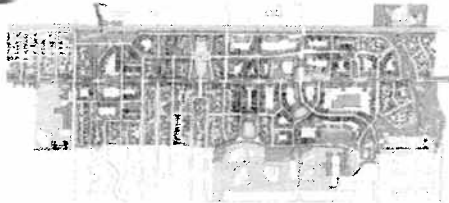



Form-Based Zoning

GVMC's experienced planners provide local and regional planning and zoning assistance at reasonable cost

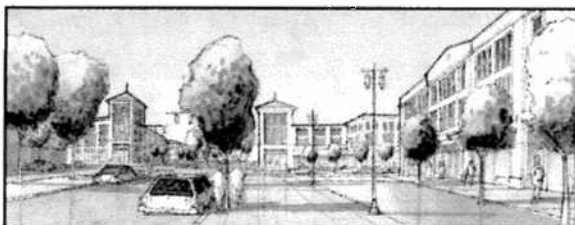
Designing for Bus Rapid Transit on Division Avenue



- GVMC Coordinating Multi-Jurisdictional Land Use Plan for Division Avenue Corridor for Cities of Grand Rapids, Wyoming and Kentwood
- Multi-Jurisdictional Plan Required by Federal Transit Administration for Approval of Very Small Starts Construction Grant for 9.5 mile BRT Line

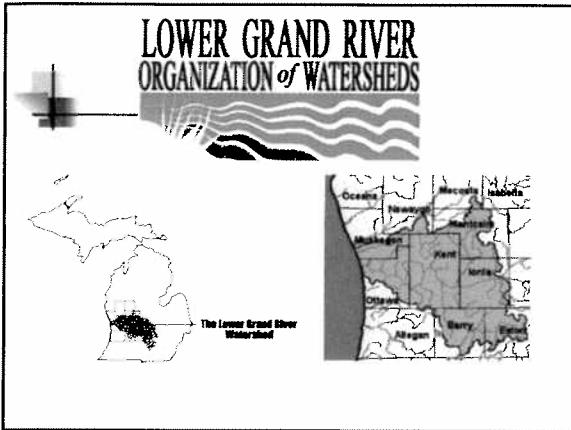
GVMC Land Use Planning





Citizens' and Developers' Vision for the Future



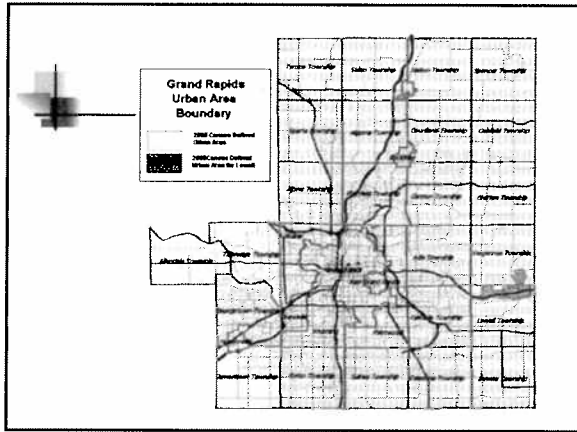


**LOWER GRAND RIVER
ORGANIZATION of WATERSHEDS**

- Administered by GVMC
- Manages and protects water quality in 3,200 square mile watershed
- Umbrella group for a dozen sub-watershed organizations

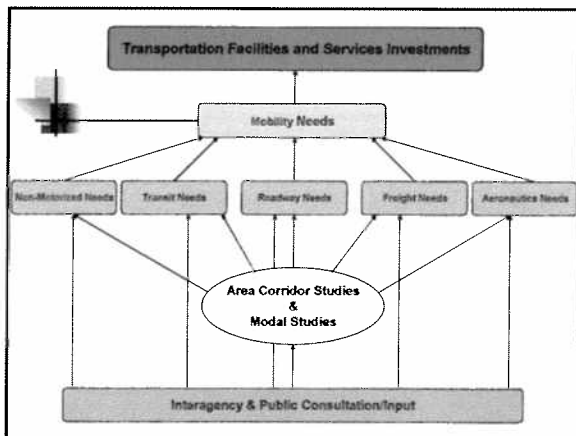
**GVMC Collaborative Regional
Transportation Planning**

- Preservation
- Congestion
- Safety
- Transit
- Freight Rail
- Passenger Rail
- Air – Passenger and Freight
- Non-Motorized
- ITS/Operations



Transportation Planning

- GVMC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Transportation Management Area agency (TMA) for the Grand Rapids Metro Area
- Responsible for the development and update of the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).
- Two Collaborative Committees – Technical and Policy – include representatives of all MPO-member communities and entities
- Extensive collaboration with economic development organizations and job providers



Regional Collaboration: Transit Partnerships

- The Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP-The Rapid) actively participates in the GVMC MPO planning process
- ITP representatives are members of the GVMC Technical and Policy Committees, and GVMC planners participate ITP planning forums



Regional Collaboration: Gerald R. Ford Airport

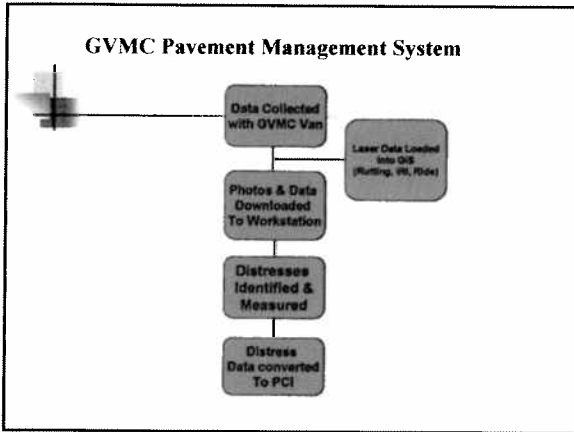


- Representatives of the airport authority serve on GVMC Technical and Policy Committees
- GVMC provides technical assistance on environmental regulatory compliance activities

Regional Collaboration Improves Efficiency and Saves Money

- April, 2006: GVMC becomes first transportation planning agency in Michigan to use mobile pavement management data collection system
- Cooperative venture saves money and provides more accurate data to improve decision making





Regional Collaboration: Programming Stimulus Projects


- GVMC Transportation staff worked with representatives of county and local agencies, MDOT and ITP-The Rapid to prepare project lists
- Project Programming Committee met on several occasions to review and prioritize projects and recommend list to Technical and Policy Committees



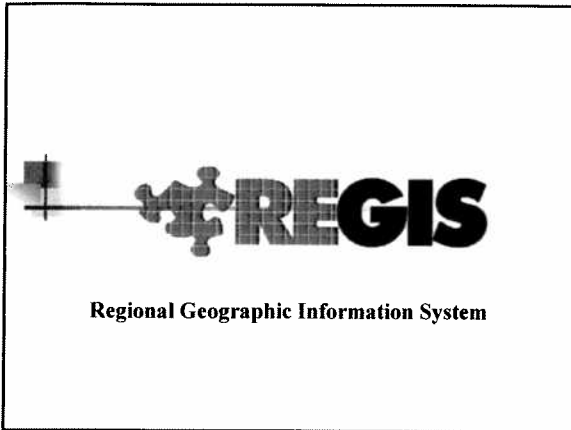
A black and white photograph showing a group of people seated around a large conference table in a meeting room, engaged in a discussion.

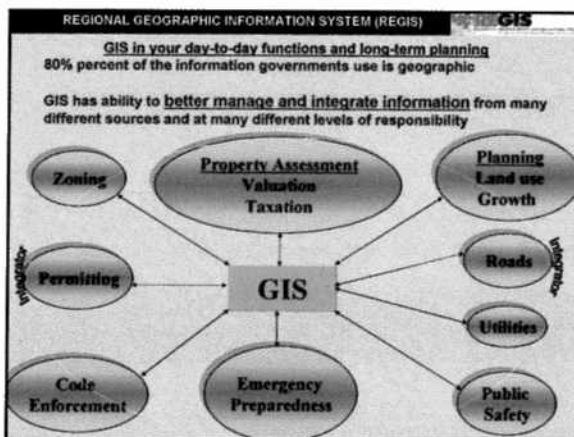
Economic Stimulus Transportation Projects in the Grand Rapids Metro Area

- 23 local and county projects totaling \$13,013,317
- 8 MDOT projects totaling \$48,034,000
- Projects formally added to the GVMC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on February 18
- Transit projects to be added in the coming weeks



A black and white photograph showing a construction site for a transportation project, with heavy machinery and materials visible.





Why Regional Collaboration Works in West Michigan

- Individual decision makers understand the importance of regional thinking and collaborative problem solving
- Long-term personal relationships lead to strong collaborative partnerships
- Atmosphere of trust among key players
- Strong support for regional thinking from business, education and philanthropic sectors
- Desire by local officials to be part of a regional initiative

Collaboration in Action

- Grand Rapids Metro cities analyzed their emergency response activities to identify ways to share services
- Law enforcement specialists – “cold case” squads; auto theft units and special response teams – now shared



Eliminating Obstacles to Encourage Multi-Jurisdictional Service Sharing

- GVMC Seeking Statutory Amendments to:
 - 1967 P.A. 7 - Urban Cooperation Act
 - 1967 P.A. 8 – Intergovernmental Transfer of Functions and Responsibilities
 - 1989 P.A. 292 – Metropolitan Councils Act
 - 1969 P.A. 312 – Compulsory Binding Arbitration



What's Next for Metro Council?

- Connecting Regional Centers
 - GVMC working with Disability Advocates, Chambers and philanthropic organizations to bring together 5 MPOs for West Michigan transportation connections study
- County-wide Transit
 - GVMC spearheading demand analysis for county-wide transit options
- Commerce Center Template Rollout
 - Better ways to design work places and neighborhoods
- Community Design Center
 - Seeking grants to continue creative planning and design
